



At our recent AGM, Friends **President John Sexton** and TMAG **Acting Director Jennifer Storer** both summed up the past year's events, and foreshadowed what's in store for us in the coming year.

Here are some extracts from what they had to say:

Jennifer: The year that was.

We had over 550,000 visitors in our first full year since reopening.

Exhibitions included *Illumination: The Art of Philip Wolfhagen*; *Tatts in Tasmania*; *Acts of Exposure*; and *Capital and Country: the Federation years 1900-1914*, touring from the National Gallery of Australia.

A highlight was the *Theatre of the World*, TMAG's joint venture with MONA, which opened at

La Maison Rouge Gallery in Paris on 18 October 2013 to much acclaim. The year concluded with the Pat Brassington exhibition *À Rebours*, which coincided with TMAG's participation in Dark MOFO on Friday 13 June 2014 where the hugely successful *Night at the Museum* saw over 5000 people attending in one evening.

Community engagement moved beyond our own walls with a rich online offering and the start of live virtual tours. The *Field Guide to Tasmanian Fauna* app was launched on 1 May 2014, whereby the TMAG Zoology team contributed text and images on selected species to this new product in collaboration with state museums.



Top: The Tasmanian Art Quilt Prize
Above: *The Field Guide to Tasmanian Fauna* app
Above right: *Theatre of the World* goes to Paris

FRIENDS



Past, present and future

SUMMING UP 2014 — AND WHAT'S TO COME

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2014



Jennifer: What's to come...

**Jorg Schmeisser and George Davis
December 2014–March 2015**

An exhibition showing an entire series of JORG SCHEISSER's Antarctic prints, recently presented to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and revealing the consummate drawing skills of major Tasmanian artist GEORGE DAVIS, whose interests cross artistic and scientific boundaries.

**Patrick Hall
March–August 2015**

A survey of the celebrated Tasmanian artist PATRICK HALL's work spanning more than two decades, from the early 1990s through to the present.



LATEST NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AND MEMBER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

RENEWALS

Most renewals are now in. If you haven't rejoined yet, please do — we don't want to lose you!

EVENT ATTENDANCE AND PAYMENT

Our goal this year is to allow you to register to attend events and pay for them online through the website. This will make life easier for you, and for us when we are processing your details. You will still be able to mail us a cheque if that is your preference. Although the TMAG Shop is able to take payment for membership renewals, they are unable to do so for events.

USE THE WEBSITE

We hope that members will make use of the website to see what's happening with the Friends. It's the place where we can give you the latest news, along with details of our events and those of other organisations too. You can check on your membership status, amend your details, download digital copies of our publications and look at photos of recent events.

If you haven't been on the website before, visit www.fotmag.wildapricot.org and click on [Forgot password?](#) to set up your own password.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

This is one aspect of our update that we aren't happy with — the continuing delay with the supply of cards. We are doing our best to get them to you, but in the meantime, your old card, or your new membership receipt, will entitle you to discounts at the TMAG Shop and Café, and allow you entry to the members' lounge. If you are travelling overseas, remember that we are happy to supply you with a letter requesting that comparable Friends' groups extend their courtesies to you. This isn't a guarantee, but it's worth a try.

STOP PRESS As we go to press, we've received news that the membership cards are on their way. If you renewed promptly, your card/s *should* be included with this newsletter. For new members and those who renewed a bit later, we'll keep you posted on when yours will be ready: latest news on our website www.fotmag.wildapricot.org

John: Friends website and member management system. The major change in the Friends operations during the year has been the introduction and installation of an entirely new electronic system (a first for us!) to keep track of our membership and all records connected to them. This system was introduced to the Friends by our resident computer guru Andrew Ross, and installed by him and Julie Hawkins in a remarkably short time. Julie did a heroic job of transferring the basic data on our members from the cards diligently kept up to date by Jean Boughey over many years of selfless effort, and the switchover has been remarkably smooth.

Jennifer: Museum audiences.

Weaving through the same year were over 100,000 people who participated in group visits, lectures or tours for programs that covered a diverse audience from playgroups to schools, prisons and programs for senior citizens. Monthly family days were a particular favorite and the flagship program AccessArt continued its outreach into the wider Tasmanian community. This included award-winning artist-in-residence program *Antarctic Gaze* with Barking Spider.

TMAG, in partnership with Barking Spider Visual Theatre, were awarded a Highly Commended in the Interpretation, Learning and Audience Engagement Category of the 2014 MAGNA Awards in recognition of the collaboration on the inaugural Artists in Residence (AIR) program held at the museum over the summer period.



Artist Philip Wolfhagen with TMAG Coordinating Curator of Art Jane Stewart. The Friends worked with TMAG to co-host the opening of *Illumination: The Art of Philip Wolfhagen*, and did it again with the opening of Pat Brassington's *A Rebounds*.

Jennifer: The passing of Ross

Fouracre. ROSS FOURACRE was a founding member of the Friends as well as the Foundation, and was a tireless supporter of the museum.



Ross Fouracre and Jean Boughey

John: Two special committee

members. One sad passing during the year was ROSS FOURACRE, a stalwart of the committee over many years. Ross could always be relied on to say yes to any request for help. He was also a lively presence at our meetings and he is sadly missed.

While JEAN BOUGHEY no longer has the membership cards to look after, it is unlikely that she will be any the less busy — skills and enthusiasm of people like Jean are all too scarce a resource, and she will continue to play a vital role in the Friends committee in the future.



Artist Anthony Johnson with his winning piece *Stutter*, winner of the 2013 City of Hobart Art Prize. At the Friends event celebrating the annual prize, TMAG Coordinating Curator of Art Jane Stewart gave an interesting account of what it was like to be one of the three judges of that year's competition.

Jennifer: And so what is to come?

We have significant financial challenges ahead, but we are not alone, and I am reassured by the fact that we have been here since 1863 and survived economic depressions and world wars. I am confident we will continue and that we will do so with considerable support from yourselves.

It is appropriate to make mention that we will be altering our opening hours on 3 November this year: closing Mondays and one hour earlier each day. This was not an easy decision to make and we did so with the knowledge that this choice of day and time would have the least impact on visitation.

We also look forward to a new director. The position will be advertised in the very near future and open to all to apply.

In closing I thank the Friends committee and members for their commitment to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Night at the Museum, part of Dark MOFO 2014. More than 5000 people attended in one evening.



Jennifer: World War I exhibition for 2015. *The Suspense is Terrible*, running from April 15–Feb 16, will examine the impact of war on Tasmania and Tasmanians during and after the war with themes around grief, remembrance, returning home, post-war politics and social upheaval, and the changing understanding of the Anzac and its legacy across the century.

Jennifer: Research and collections. Field work and research projects expanded and enriched the collections. TMAG staff members took part in the Bush Blitz Program on Flinders Island and at Gowan Brae in the Central Highlands, collecting specimens of plants and animals and discovering several new species.

Dr Gintaras Kantvilas, Head of the Tasmanian Herbarium, on invitation by the British Lichen Society, attended and gave a short address at the launch of a special, commemorative issue of *The Lichenologist* in Edinburgh.

Over 37 papers were published of which 17 were peer-reviewed. Over 6,700 items were registered into the collection and over 1800 items moved for exhibitions, displays, loans and conservation work.



Bill Bleathman

John: The retirement of Bill Bleathman.

One major change that affected both the Friends and the museum was the retirement of Bill Bleathman as Director after 12 years of visionary leadership of TMAG, culminating in the superb redevelopment, which has received numerous awards in different categories. Bill was a great supporter of our efforts on behalf of TMAG.

We wish him well in his retirement, which we are sure will be extremely active and productive. In order to make sure we didn't run any risk of losing our connection with Bill, your committee unanimously invited him and Leanne to become life members of the Friends, which they graciously accepted.



Botany Curator Dr Miguel De Salas (right), who is based at the Tasmanian Herbarium, and Senior Invertebrate Zoology Curator Dr Simon Grove gave a great presentation to the Friends at our *Bush Blitz* function in August 2014.



John: Thanks to TMAG staff. *I would like to express our appreciation of the friendly cooperation and generous support of the staff of TMAG in preparing for our functions or whenever we ask for help of any kind. We truly feel that the Friends and our efforts are valued all across TMAG, and that is a nice feeling.*

John: And thanks to the Friends committee. *I thank the hard-working members of your committee, whose efforts have been central to the successful year we have had. I thank them all for their dedication and support, particularly Heather Morris, who is leaving the committee.*



We have a new phone number!

Check the TMAG website www.tmag.tas.gov.au for other changed numbers.

Friends TMAG President John Sexton and Secretary Julie Hawkins recently travelled to Burnie at the invitation of the recently formed Friends of the Burnie Regional Museum. Along with Belinda Cotton from Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, they shared some insights into operating Friends groups.

The Friends of the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery Incorporated

40 Macquarie Street Hobart Tasmania
GPO Box 1164 Hobart TAS 7001

6165 7001

Email friends@tmag.tas.gov.au

Website www.fotmag.wildapricot.org

Upcoming events

Details also appear on our website: www.fotmag.wildapricot.org

**Sun 26 October, 2-4pm
CANTONESE OPERA FOR
TASMANIANS**

Public talk, demonstration and display at the Town Hall, Hobart, to be opened by Sir Guy Green. The speaker will be Prof. Wong Shiu Hon.

Admission is by complimentary ticket: contact Nancy Wong 0418 914 007 or chinese.art.soc@gmail.com.

RSVP 20 October 2014



**Mon 27 October, 4pm
MAWSON'S HUTS
REPLICA MUSEUM**

There will be a talk at TMAG by Rob Easter, who is expeditions manager for the Mawson's Huts Foundation, followed by a tour of the replica in (where else?) Mawson Place. Invitations went out on 3 October.

**November
TRANSPLANTATION**

A major exhibition of eclectic contemporary jewellery which is coming to Tasmania as part of a national tour. We'll be sending an invitation closer to the event.

Patron: The Governor of Tasmania

- President: John Sexton
- Vice President: Christopher Thomas
- Treasurer: Noel Harper
- Secretary: Julie Hawkins
- Committee Members:
 - Jean Boughey David Coleman
 - Ruvé Etchell Digby Longhurst
 - Andrew Ross Matt Spencer

Ex Officio:
Jennifer Storer, Acting Director, TMAG

OFFICE HOURS

We are run entirely by volunteers so we can't staff our office on a fulltime basis. We almost always answer the phone at TMAG on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 and 12, so that's the best time to call. An email to friends@tmag.tas.gov.au will get our prompt attention. Our website www.fotmag.wildapricot.org carries lots of information. Comments and suggestions are always welcome!

Views expressed in this newsletter reflect the views of the author and not necessarily those of the editor, the Friends of the TMAG or the TMAG.

Publication editor: John Sexton
Graphic design: Julie Hawkins, In Graphic Detail

Membership that rewards you



The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery collects, houses and safeguards our natural and cultural heritage and provides an insight into other cultures.

The Friends are a group of people formed to bring the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to Tasmanians and Tasmanians to TMAG. The Friends aim to help TMAG with our time, our talents and our money and to make more information available to the community about the TMAG and its collections. Part of the function of The Friends of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Inc. is to raise funds to assist with the purchase of significant items for the TMAG.

The Friends of TMAG are part of a wider Australian group with similar aims, the Australian Federation of Friends of Museums (AFFM).

We are enclosing a membership brochure with this newsletter: we hope you will pass this on to your friends who may be interested in also becoming our Friends.

SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS

- Business Events Tasmania
- Corinda's Cottages
- Ewe-nique
- Hair 156
- E.R. Henry Wherrett & Benjamin
- Mona Nails
- Tasmanian Coffee Roasters
- Yellowpoint Vineyard

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THE FISH CENTRE
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